IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of examining a ~~recording track (2) of the~~ record carrier ~~(1)~~ for the presence of a defect~~,~~ comprising

following ~~wherein the~~ a track to be examined ~~is followed~~ and monitoring the resulting tracking signal~~; is monitored,~~ and

rating ~~wherein~~ the examined recording track ~~is rated~~ on the basis of characteristics of the resulting tracking signal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the examined recording track is rated as being defective if the absolute value of the tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined signal threshold for a predetermined period of time or longer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined signal threshold~~, which preselected fraction is preferably equal to approximately 0.5.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said predetermined period of time lies in a range from approximately 50 µs to approximately 75 µs~~, and is preferably approximately 60 µs~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of examining as in Claim 1 wherein the a record carrier (1) is examined for the presence of spot defects ~~(12; 13)~~, the method comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks ~~(2T)~~ of the record carrier ~~(1)~~, ~~preferably by means of a method as claimed in Claim 1~~;

b) examining the integrity of tracks ~~(2)~~ adjacent the relevant test track ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ each time that upon the examination a test track ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ appears to be

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defective, in order to determine in this way the number ~~(X)~~ of tracks ~~(2)~~ affected by the same spot defect ~~(12; 13)~~;

c) entering the relevant tracks ~~(2)~~ in a defect list each time that the number ~~(X)~~ thus determined in the step (b) is greater than a predetermined threshold value ~~(M)~~;

d) storing the defect list in a memory ~~(25)~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method as Claimed in Claim 5, wherein ~~each time~~ a predetermined number ~~(N)~~ of tracks ~~(2)~~ between successive test tracks ~~(2T)~~ is skipped~~, said number (N) being preferably equal to approximately 50~~.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier ~~(1)~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of recording information~~, particularly real-time video,~~ on a record carrier ~~(1)~~ of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks ~~(2)~~, particularly a DVR disc, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- first providing, in an examination phase, a defect list of tracks affected by a comparatively large spot defect ~~(13)~~ by means of a method as claimed in Claim 6;
- subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said defect list, the recording tracks included in said defect list being skipped in the recording process.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of examining of Claim 1 wherein the a record carrier (1) is examined for the presence of spot defects ~~(12; 13)~~, comprising ~~the following steps~~:

a) examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks ~~(2T)~~ of the record carrier ~~(1)~~, ~~preferably by means of a method as claimed in Claim 1~~;

b) entering the relevant tracks ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ in a primary defect list each time that upon the examination of a test track ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ it appears to be defective, and, optionally, entering tracks ~~(2)~~ situated in a suspect area ~~(3T2; 3T3)~~ at opposite sides of the relevant test track ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ in an alarm list;

c) storing the primary defect list and, if applicable, the alarm list in a memory ~~(25)~~.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein ~~each time~~ a predetermined number ~~(N)~~ of tracks ~~(2)~~ between successive test tracks ~~(2T)~~ is skipped, and wherein each suspect area always extends from the relevant test track ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ to the directly preceding and the directly following test track, respectively, ~~said number (N) being preferably approximately 50~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of recording information~~, particularly real time video,~~ on a record carrier ~~(1)~~ of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks ~~(2)~~, particularly a DVR disc, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- first providing, in a primary examination phase, a primary defect list of test tracks ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ having a defect and, optionally, an alarm list of tracks ~~(2)~~ situated in a suspect area ~~(3T2; 3T3)~~ at opposite sides of the relevant test tracks ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~, by means of a method as claimed n Claim 10;
- subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said primary defect list and said optional alarm list, the recording tracks included in said primary defect list as well as the tracks ~~(2)~~ situated in a suspect area ~~(3T2; 3T3)~~ at opposite sides of the relevant test tracks ~~(2T2; 2T3)~~ being skipped in the recording process;
- subsequently examining the integrity of the tracks ~~(2)~~ in said suspect areas ~~(3T2; 3T3)~~ in a secondary examination phase, in order to determine in this way the number ~~(X)~~ of tracks ~~(2)~~ affected by the same spot defect ~~(12; 13)~~;
- entering the relevant tracks ~~(2)~~ in a secondary defect list each time that the number ~~(X)~~ thus determined is greater than a predetermined threshold value ~~(M)~~.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the secondary defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier ~~(1)~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of recording information ~~in a recording track (2) of~~ on a record carrier (1), comprising:

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monitoring a recording track and based on ~~wherein~~ the resulting tracking signal ~~is monitored,~~ determining ~~and wherein on the basis of characteristics of the resulting tracking signal it is decided~~ whether the recording process is to be continued or discontinued.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the recording process is discontinued if the absolute value of the tracking signal appears to have a value which exceeds a predetermined signal threshold for a predetermined period of time or longer.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as signal threshold~~, which preselected fraction is preferably equal to approximately 2/3~~.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said predetermined period of time lies in a range from approximately 50 μs to approximately 75 μs~~, and is preferably approximately 60 μs~~.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A recording device ~~(20)~~ suitable for the recording of information, particularly real time video or audio, on a record carrier ~~(1)~~ of the type comprising a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks ~~(2)~~, particularly an optical disc, which recording device comprises:

- a control unit ~~(22)~~;
- a write/read unit ~~(21)~~ adapted to aim a laser beam at a track ~~(2)~~ of a record carrier ~~(1)~~ under control of the control unit ~~(22)~~ and to receive laser light reflected from the disc ~~(1)~~, and further adapted to supply a tracking signal to the control unit ~~(22)~~, which tracking signal has been determined on the basis of the reflected laser light;

wherein the control unit ~~(22)~~ is adapted to carry out the method as claimed in Claim 16.

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Claim 18 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined signal threshold is equal to approximately 0.5.

Claim 19 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said predetermined period of time is approximately 60 μs.

Claim 20 (new): A method as Claimed in Claim 5, wherein approximately 50 tracks between successive test tracks are skipped.

Claim 21 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as signal threshold, which preselected fraction is approximately 2/3.

Claim 22 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said predetermined period of time is approximately 60 μs.